



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

In 1849, Isaac W. Stuart published a voluminous work quite uncritical in its approach to the subject and expanded to an inordinate length by a diffuse and highly rhetorical style. The reader of this new biography will be grateful to its author for telling the story in about half the space required by his predecessor and in a plain, straightforward style. Mr. Trumbull has used some new material, though in the main his sources are the same as those used by Stuart. He has also been conscientiously on his guard against the pitfalls which beset a family biography. Of most direct interest to most readers of this journal are the chapters dealing with the Wyoming controversy.

Notwithstanding its solid virtues, the book leaves something to be desired, whether from a literary or a scientific point of view. There are too many long quotations from formal documents, some of which add comparatively little to the information of the reader. Wider reading of recent books on the genesis of the revolution would have saved the writer from some errors and would have enabled him to give a more adequate setting for the old governor's career. Notwithstanding his obvious effort to be fair, he could not quite escape the prepossessions of his family connection and his state patriotism. There is a little too much impatience with inconsiderate disturbers of pleasant Connecticut traditions; after all, we are reminded, they may be as good as much that passes for history, comparatively little of which "can be proved by direct evidence, such as seems to be called for to prove the authenticity of our Brother Jonathan tradition."

E. B. G.

A short history of the British commonwealth. Volume 1. By Ramsay Muir. (London: George Philip and son, limited, 1920. 824 p.)

This first volume extends to the year 1763 and a second volume bringing the narrative down to the present time is soon to follow. Mr. Muir has not followed the traditional perspective of English history, for his object is to tell how the present British empire came into being and how it works. The whole treatment of the subject is subordinated to this larger concept. Naturally in this volume we have to do with the beginnings, but more pages than ordinary are devoted to Scotland, Wales, and Ireland as starting points in the great expansion. The account of the American colonies and of the East India company to 1763 is very satisfactory, both being treated from the imperial point of view. American students will find Mr. Muir's interpretation of the eighteenth century, in its local and imperial aspects, illuminating, although he is not acquainted with some important contributions to the interpretation of this period that have been made by American scholars.

C. W. A.